Security implications of opening up Nanda Devi Biosphere reserve

3353. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Uttaranchal Government has conveniently ignored the security implication of opening up Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve to tourists, which is close to Barahoti Plateau on the Eastern side of Nanda Devi; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) State Government of Uttranchal has informed that there has been no restriction on tourism in the buffer area. However, the restrictions on Tourism in Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve is applicable in the core area of Nanda Devi National Park.

(b) Expeditions are permitted subject to mandatory clearances from Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence.

Applicability of "200 point Roster" of D.O.P.T. in Department of Archaeology

3354. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether "200 point Roster" of D.O.P.T. made effective from October, 1993 is applicable in Department of Archaeology;

(b) if so, why the backlog of SC/ST quota in the post of "Superintending Archaeologist" has been kept pending for four years and their points were deliberately allotted to other category candiates and eligible candidates of this category are victimised;

(c) whether Government has any time frame to give justice to the victims;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) There are at present 33 posts of Superintending Archaeologist in the Archaeological Survey of India. As per Recruitment Rules, 75% of these are to be filled up by promotion and the balance 25% by direct recruitment, to which the 200 point roster is applicable. At present the number of Superintending Archaeologists recruited under the "direct recruitment" component are 8, out of which 4 were un-reserved, 3 SC and 1 ST.